



Albany Maritime Ministry

Welcoming seafarers along the Hudson River in New York's Capital District

109 Smith Blvd. Albany, NY 12202 USA
phone: 518.463.0571 website: www.AlbanyMM.us

April Newsletter

Volume 1:2; April 7, 2015

May 17th is Seafarer Sunday 2015

On Seafarer Sunday, we will honor those who daily risk their lives so that worldwide material needs are met. This is a day of prayer and gratitude. We hope you can help make it a success, and ask that you:

Pray!

Remember those who “go down to the sea in ships,” and risk personal harm to provide for our material needs. May dear Jesus quiet their storms and always bring them to safe harbor. (See Psalms 107:23 and Mark 4:35-41).

Donate!

This is a great time to donate. The Capital District Chapter of *Thrivent*, a Christian, non-profit financial services organization, has just issued a matching donation grant to our ministry. They will match every dollar we receive by May 20, 2015, up to a total of \$500. Write a check payable to “Albany Maritime Ministry” and send it to us at: 109 Smith Boulevard, Albany, NY 12202.

Just Ask One!

Do you know someone with a big heart, warm smile and some time to spare? Invite your candidate to join our friendly volunteer corps: explore our website and then contact our chaplain, Rev. William Hempel, at [chaplain \[at\] albanymm.us](mailto:chaplain@albanymm.us).

Share Our Story!

Contact us if you need a speaker for your group. All programs are guaranteed to be exciting.

Highlights:

- ❖ May 17th declared Seafarer Sunday 2015.
- ❖ Northeast port activity broke records in 2014.
- ❖ Big freeze warmed by Hudson River heroes.
- ❖ We now have Wi-Fi.
- ❖ Our chaplain attended Connecticut Maritime Association conference.
- ❖ Our story spreads.
- ❖ Gift of Bible study material enriches ministry.

Northeast Port Activity Broke Records in 2014

Northeast American ports experienced record-breaking activity in 2014, resulting in a busy year for Albany Maritime Ministry (AMM).

In 2014, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (NY-NJ) remained the busiest port on the East Coast despite an automaker shift to mid-Atlantic ports in Baltimore and Philadelphia. NY-NJ handled 30% of the United States market, with a record-breaking 3.3 million cargo containers passing through their ports. This was an increase of 5.6% from the previous year. Their ship-to-rail system, known as ExpressRail, set a record of 465,405 containers, up 9.3% from 2013. These numbers are truly remarkable, given the 12.8% reduction in vehicle shipment volume to less than 400,000 vehicles.

Capital District port activity was likewise remarkable. Its heavy-lift cargo doubled; longshore work-hours also doubled to 81,990. Heavy-lift grain exports more than doubled to 280,671 tons.

On March 18, 2015, the Port of Albany installed a \$4.5 million dollar, 144 ton-capacity Lebherr Mobile Harbour Crane to support this outstanding heavy-load activity. Pictures of the new crane are available at:

<http://m.timesunion.com/news/article/Port-of-Albany-shows-off-new-crane-6142317.php#photo-7674139>.

AMM remained busy throughout 2014 and into 2015. We welcomed international visitors from the Philippines, Russia, Ukraine, China and elsewhere. Our visitors were served in numerous ways. Recently, we transported them for shopping, in one case shopping for a seafarer who was unable to go ashore. A number of visitors came to our Seafarer Center to rest on firm ground, use our computers and call home.



Seafarers Contacting their Loved Ones

Big Freeze Warmed by Hudson River Heroes

As we celebrate spring, let's also give thanks for the Hudson River heroes who kept us supplied with heating oil during this past brutal winter. It took the United States Coast Guard (USCG), many longshore hours and numerous seafarers to cut through the frozen river and deliver those shipments.

Did you know:

- ▲ Up to three quarters of United States heating oil is used in the Northeast, and 90% of it is shipped by barge?
- ▲ Every winter, ten million barrels of petroleum are carried up the Hudson River in about 300 vessels?

The USCG normally deploys three of its nine specialty icebreakers to break river ice and keep the Hudson River passable by cargo ships. However, this winter, one of its icebreakers, the 30-year-old Penobscot Bay, was forced into dry dock for maintenance. Penobscot Bay's sister ship, the cutter Sturgeon Bay, came to the rescue. Along with the Willow, a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender, it cut through more than thirty inches of ice each time a cargo vessel came up river.

Don't miss viewing the local news video which was filmed aboard the Sturgeon Bay last February: <http://news10.com/2015/02/27/u-s-coast-guard-works-to-break-ice-on-hudson-river/>.

We Now Have Wi-Fi

AMM has acquired a Wi-Fi (hotspot) router, which enables portable, wireless, Internet access. The router can be brought aboard ship for use by seafarers who are detained on their vessels and unable to reach offshore phones and computers.

Our Chaplain Attended Connecticut Maritime Association Conference

On March 23-25, our chaplain, Reverend William Hempel, joined the North American Maritime Ministry (NAMMA) contingent at the *Spring 2015* annual conference of the Connecticut Maritime Association (CMA). CMA is a non-profit organization of individuals who represent every aspect of the shipping industry and international trade. Its conferences are among the largest and most important annual gatherings of the shipping industry.

Conference participants include cadet officers, software developers, banking financiers, chaplains and everyone in between. The NAMMA contingent is a vital participant in the discussion of the future directions of the shipping world. Several donors made it possible for NAMMA to hold important presentations, such as:

The International Port Welfare Pilot Project

This project began in Great Britain, and continues with a broad-based mission to involve stakeholders in the safety and welfare of seafarers. At the presentation, participants and British representatives discussed the possibility of establishing a Port Welfare Committee in Albany. The committee would involve the Port of Albany-Rensselaer, labor, the United States Coast Guard, port welfare workers, agents, shippers and other interested parties.

The Future of Maritime Ministry: Are Large Seafarers Centers Obsolete?

Participants discussed the likelihood of large seafarer centers becoming obsolete because of new technology that creates small crew sizes, short stays in port, increased shipboard activity and rapid crew changes. Participants explored ways to update maritime ministry and meet future seafarer needs.

A Large-Scale Sea Rescue of Migrants in Distress

This presentation highlighted the size and complexity of the refugee crisis—500,000 refugees are expected in the Mediterranean, alone. It also showed ordinary seafarers showing extraordinary humanity.

Connecticut Maritime Ministry Conference (cont.)

In the fall of 2014, Captain Bhatt was serving as master of Campbell Shipping's CS Caprice. The CS Caprice responded to a distress call from a dilapidated migrant boat in the Sicilian channel, and transported five hundred and twelve migrants safely to Sicily on October 24th.

Reverend Hempel thanks his donors for the opportunity to participate in this important conference.

Our Story Spreads

Our story continues to spread with two planned speaking engagements in the Capital District. On April 13, Reverend Hempel, will speak to the Women's Group of the Scotia United Methodist Church. Our chairman, Reverend Victorson, is also planning an engagement at St John's Lutheran Church in Altamont.

Gift of Bible Study Material Enriches our Ministry

AMM received Verse-by-Verse Computer Bible Study Materials from Dr. Bob Utley and Bible Lessons International, which will enrich our ministry. Notes are available in over 40 languages. We will distribute these CD-based study materials without charge. Contact us if you would like a copy.

May you be blessed with Eastertide joy!

